

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## WILSON CONFERS WITH LANSING ON BERLIN'S ANSWER

Stumbling Block in Negotiations is Germany's Refusal to Acknowledge Illegality of Attack.

Germany Awaits Word from Washington — Tension Lessens Somewhat in Berlin. Reply Expected Soon.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Secretary Lansing will confer with President Wilson today over the new tentative form of settlement of the Lusitania case, submitted yesterday by Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador. Meanwhile, the secretary said the situation is unchanged.

It was said in official quarters that some announcement might be made within the next few days.

Count Von Bernstorff had no appointment today to confer with Secretary Lansing but was holding himself in readiness to go to the state department whenever his presence might be required.

Apparently, the stumbling block is the word "illegal" as differently interpreted in this country and Germany. The Berlin government's answer proposes instead of a flat admission of illegality of the method of submarine warfare in sinking the liner, the acceptance of liability for the loss of neutral lives which Germany hopes will be satisfactory to the United States.

Berlin, Feb. 5.—There are no new developments here today in the Lusitania case. News is being awaited from Washington. With regard to the proposals of Secretary Lansing on the subject of submarine warfare and the timing of merchantment, The Associated Press is authoritatively informed that they have not so far been submitted to Germany.

The press continues to discuss the cables report regarding those proposals of Mr. Lansing. The Koelnische Volks Zeitung, an organ of the Catholic party, says that the proposals are absolutely unacceptable, as their acceptance would signify the abandonment of the entire German submarine campaign against the commerce of the allies.

With regard to the Lusitania question, the Volks Zeitung says that if Mr. Wilson is correctly reported as demanding that Germany recognize that the sinking of the Lusitania was illegal and unjustified by the theory of reprisals, then there can be only one answer—a flat refusal.

The tension created by the latest developments in the Lusitania case evidently is lessening. Most of the afternoon papers do not discuss the situation today. The Kreuz Zeitung, however, says it is necessary to emphasize the reasons which should influence Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg in deciding not to meet demands of the United States.

The Germania recalls the fact that Feb. 4 is the anniversary of the issuance of the German proclamation establishing a war zone at the British Isles. It says the most important consequence was destruction of the Lusitania.

"This case, so far from being settled," the article continues, "we cannot understand what moved America to take her present stand. It is most certain that the sinking of the Lusitania was absolutely within the provisions of the German proclamation and the inference is that there can be no talk of illegality unless our commercial war roundabout Great Britain is to be deprived of its basis."

## CHARGE DANISH FISHERMEN ARE HIDING GERMANS

New York, Feb. 5.—Charges that Spanish fishermen were being employed by the Germans to lay mines off French ports were made today by Ship Surgeon Ponce, who arrived here on board the French liner Chicazo from Bordeaux. Dr. Ponce said that numerous mines had been placed in the mouth of the Gironde river and that he saw a British and a Spanish ship blown up in that neighborhood. Dr. Ponce joined the Chicazo after seeing long service at the front in the Champagne district.

He said he saw eight children killed on Christmas day by a German shell. The physician said that the health of the French troops was splendid, although the trenches were several feet in mud.

RIFLES POCKETS WHILE VICTIM ENJOYS NAP

Sneak thieves entered the home of Mrs. J. W. Nicholson at 372 East Main street, yesterday afternoon, and stole \$18 from the trousers pocket of Eugene Flint while the latter slept.

Flint is employed in the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. and he was enjoying an afternoon nap while the sneak thief was looting his trousers pocket. The matter has been reported to the police.

## DYING, ENLISTS AID OF MOVIES TO FIND "TOM"

John L. Durant of Hartford Seeks Brother Believed In Bridgeport.

"Your dear brother Jack is dying. He wants you, so please come home."

Mrs. John L. Durant to Thomas E. Durant.

The above inscription will be flashed upon the screens in moving picture theatres and opera houses in an endeavor to locate Thomas E. Durant, formerly of Hartford, and asking him to come back home to his brother, John L. Durant, of 22 South Whitney street, Hartford, who is dying and repeatedly calling for his brother Tom.

Thomas Durant left home several months ago and it is believed that he came to this city to go to work in the plant of the Remington-Arms & Ammunition Co. The dying man's wife made a letter to Superintendent Eugene Birmingham asking for the help of the police in locating her missing brother-in-law. The superintendent will ask the co-operation of the proprietors of the various moving picture houses in an endeavor to locate Thomas Durant. Physicians have given up hope of saving the life of his brother who is eager to see him before he dies.

## STRAND THEATRE UNION TROUBLES ALL AT AN END

Berger Contributes \$200 To Charities As Evidence of His Good Will.

Differences between the local building trades and the Strand theatre, 1414 Main street, were adjusted today to the satisfaction of a committee representing the Central Labor union and Building Trades council, and the owner and lessee of the theatre, Chas. J. Berger and E. T. Kontos, respectively, when Mr. Berger agreed to contribute \$200 to local charities.

The two hospitals of the city, St. Vincent's and the Bridgeport, will share in Mr. Berger's donation. He wrote checks for \$100 in favor of each institution, and turned them over to newspapers to be given to the hospitals. The checks have been forwarded to the institutions.

The Strand theatre, an attractive playhouse devoted to motion pictures, was completed by men who were not affiliated with the local building trades unions. Naturally, the union workmen felt resentment.

When Mr. Berger's attention was called to this fact, recently, through P. T. Kontos, the new lessee of the theatre, he expressed his willingness to do anything within reason to restore peace and harmony between the union trades and himself. As a result, conferences were arranged, and last evening a plan satisfactory all around was evolved.

Mr. Berger expressed his willingness to contribute to any worthy cause, as an evidence of his good feeling towards union principles. The Central Labor union could not receive the cash, as a matter of principle. The unions would not, even if they could, take the money for the workers on the building, for they were not affiliated with their organizations. Charity was deemed a better alternative.

Mr. Berger visited The Farmer office with Kontos and the committee, John J. O'Neill, Martin L. Kane and Charles Stout. They explained the satisfactory adjustment of their differences and asked The Farmer to see that the funds reached their proper destinations.

Lillian Pacz, 13, Missing Several Days, Returns Home

Lillian Pacz, aged 13, of 197 Calhoun avenue, who has been missing from her home for several days, was identified this morning at the Bridgeport Protective Home, where she has been given shelter since Tuesday.

Dr. F. Moxon, pastor of the Sacred Heart church, made inquiry after Superintendent Kathryn Hewitt of the Protective Home had enlisted his aid in identifying the girl. This morning she was returned to her home as a result of these efforts.

According to information received by the police, the girl told Supt. Hewitt that she had come from New York and she gave a name other than her own.

An affecting sight was staged, at the home this afternoon, when the mother and sister of the child, actually on their knees, thanked Supt. Hewitt for having cared for the child. Their relief on finding the child well and protected, after they had imagined the darkest things, overcame them.

Charles H. McLean, proprietor of the Seaside hotel, has recovered from an illness of several weeks and is now able to attend business.

## SIMON LAKE HAS GASOLINE ENGINE FOR SUBMARINES

Claims to Have Invention Which Obviates Former Impossibilities.

NOXIOUS GASES ARE WHOLLY DISSIPATED

Air Under Compression Fed Into Engine As It Is Needed.

Danger from noxious gases emanating from gasoline or heavy oil burning engines in submarines has been obviated according to mechanical experts who have viewed the invention of Simon Lake, head of the Lake Submarine Boat Company of this city, to whom a patent was issued by the government on Feb. 1.

Under serial 1,169,959 allowed the claim of the inventor to an engine in which an air compressor is operated for supplying the necessary air for the combustion chamber. The patent also provides for an individual arrangement of auxiliary exhaust ports to take care of the gases that may escape around the piston rings of the cylinder, thereby making the engine particularly adaptable for submarine use, or in any boats where the escaping gases may pass from the engine room to any other part of the boat.

As is shown in negotiations with the patent office, Mr. Lake undoubtedly the first person to provide for this emergency and his invention was developed through personal underwater experience of perilous nature.

"The applicant has observed," says part of the original application "from practical experience that when using internal combustion engines in submarine boats or other places where little chance for air circulation exists, the burned gas escapes into the engine room. This oftentimes is to such an extent as to drive the engineer from his post. The escape of the gas has been traced to the crank case of the engine or to the cylinder which is open in engines of ordinary types." Mr. Lake has found that providing a cylinder with a set of auxiliary or leakage ports positioned at a point in the cylinder below the lowest point of travel of the piston the escape of the gases into the boat may be avoided.

## BUDLONG TIRES OF GIVING CASH TO FIRST WIFE

Claims To Have Paid Her \$6,000 Alimony Instead of \$2,000.

Declaring that he has already paid over \$6,000 on a \$2,000 judgment for alimony, Assistant General Manager Herbert A. Budlong of the American Graphophone Co., is fighting the effort of his first wife, Charlotte Budlong of Washington, D. C., to collect back alimony. There were arguments on motions in the common pleas court yesterday afternoon on the suit brought by Mr. Budlong but Judge Scott reserved decision.

The court in this action was Budlong's first wife and he has been married twice since. When she obtained a divorce in this city in 1904 she got a judgment against Budlong for \$2,000 alimony. He did not wish to pay this in a lump sum so an agreement was drawn whereby Budlong was to pay her \$75 a month so long as she lived and remained single.

This money was paid regularly until the amount had greatly exceeded the original judgment of \$2,000. Last July Budlong stopped paying and along began suit to recover the amounts she claims have since become due. Though her personal counsel, Attorney Robert G. DeForest, she maintains that Budlong should abide by the terms of the written contract he made with her.

Attorney I. J. Cohens representing Budlong declares that when Budlong made the contract it was agreed Mrs. Budlong should release the \$2,000 judgment but it is claimed she failed to do this. She Budlong filed a counter claim to recover what he has paid in excess of \$2,000. Attorney DeForest filed a demurrer to this and Judge Scott took the papers.

The third Mrs. Budlong recently brought suit for divorce but the case was dismissed after a sensational trial in which Budlong contested his wife's action.

## DANBURY TO HAVE SCHOLARSHIP AT YALE UNIVERSITY

Danbury, Feb. 5.—By the terms of the will of Philip Nichols Bliss, who died here recently, a fund of \$30,000 is established for a permanent scholarship at Sheffield Scientific school, Yale University. The foundation was provided in a bequest of \$14,000 by the late Starr Hoyt Nichols of Danbury, whose estate Mr. Bliss inherited in trust. Mr. Bliss provided in his will for an additional \$16,000. The scholarship is to be for natives of Danbury or residents of this city and the holders are to be decided by competitive examinations.

The weekly statement of the Bank of France shows an increase in gold of 7,993,000 francs, and a decrease of 617,000 francs in silver.

## JURORS IN MOHR CASE STILL OUT

Deliberations on Fate of Physician's Wife and Two Negroes Begun After Brief Charge By Judge.

Court Instructs Jury That Sympathy For Woman Defendant Must Not Enter Their Deliberations.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 5.—After three hours' deliberation, the jury in the case of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, C. Victor Brown and Henry H. Spellman, charged with the murder of Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, the woman's husband, was still out when the court recessed for luncheon.

The case went to the jury at 10:45 o'clock after being charged by Judge Stearns. No word had come from the jury room up to the recess.

Judge Stearns in his charge to the jury declared that it was their duty if they concluded the state had proven its case to say "guilty," whatever the consequences, in each case or in any case.

"The law recognizes no color, no creed," the court said. "Pay no regard to the fact that one defendant is a woman and two are colored men. They are three citizens on trial and charge you not to allow any prejudice or feeling, excepting an honest desire to do impartial justice, to enter your minds."

"Mrs. Mohr has been indicted as an accessory before the fact. If you find she hired, aided, procured, or assisted one or both of the other defendants," he continued, "she is guilty."

Referring to the hardship and unfairness to the defendants to be tried together, the court said, "I hope not. It does not always work a hardship. But this is a responsibility assumed by the state."

Judge Stearns then explained the degree of proof necessary to convict, saying:

"All three defendants are indicted together, but you will bring in three verdicts. You will be asked if Brown is guilty; if Spellman is guilty; and if Mrs. Mohr is guilty. The verdicts will be individual. There have been three separate trials."

The court asserted that under the law an accessory cannot be convicted unless one or both of the principals are found guilty and therefore that it was logical that the jury first determine if Brown and Spellman were guilty.

Taking up a discussion of the evidence, the court first read the testimony of George W. Heals, Dr. Mohr's chauffeur, who turned state's evidence.

"How much reliance is to be placed on the testimony of an accomplice?" he asked the court. "That rests with you. Heals is a puzzling figure in this case. It's a fair question how much of his statement is true and how much is false."

"It has been argued," the court said, "that Brown and Spellman were joking when they were told how they threw the guns away. All I have to say is that if a man sees fit to joke about something after he's charged with murder he has got to one but himself to blame if he is taken seriously."

The court said no confession was made by Mrs. Mohr but that, according to the state, she had made threats against her husband a number of times. It was up to the jury to determine the value of these alleged threats, the court said.

Judge Stearns declared that confessions were only to be taken as against the person making them. Therefore, he said, the alleged confessions of Brown and Spellman were not to be considered as against Mrs. Mohr.

The court advised the jurors not to talk to newspapermen after a verdict had been rendered.

Upon request of counsel for the defense the court charged the jury that there was no evidence that the estate of Dr. Mohr was paying for the defense of Brown and Spellman.

When the jury retired Mrs. Mohr left the courtroom with her attorneys and the two negro defendants were taken to their cells.

The jury was still deliberating at 1 o'clock. Mrs. Mohr left the courtroom shortly after the judge's charge was concluded, although a large crowd remained, evidently with the expectation that an early verdict would be brought in. Judge Stearns left the courthouse at 12:45 o'clock, at which hour luncheon was ordered for the jury.

James Austin Shields, Barnum Animal Trainer, Dies In Brooklyn At 73

Word has been received from Brooklyn, N. Y., of the death of James Austin Shields, at 73 years. Heart disease was the cause.

James A. Shields spent many years in Bridgeport during the early days of the Barnum circus. He was a close friend of the late P. T. Barnum and had full charge of the original menagerie that was attached to the show. He was one of the pioneers in the training of wild animals.

RUSSELL REA DEAD.

London, Feb. 5.—Russell Rea, shipowner, merchant and Liberal member of the House of Commons since 1885, is dead. He was born in 1844.

## SLICE OF EIGHTY MILLION MAY GO TO LOCAL CLERK

Forrest E. Ellman, Bridgeporter, One of Heirs of Vast Fortune.

NINETY-NINE YEAR LEASE HAS EXPIRED

Land In Philadelphia and Oil City Included In Tremendous Estate.

Forrest E. Ellman, a clerk in Meigs Co. and living at 44 Lewis St. is elated. His elation is most natural for he has just been informed that he may participate in the bequest of an \$80,000,000 estate—eighty million.

Not only is this amount of money almost beyond the grasp of the imagination, but according to reports from Troy, Ohio, where the first intimation of the possibility arose, the manner in which it devolves upon the heirs of one Marmaduke Coate is unique and shows that leases made for a century sometimes are called even in the present age. It is believed that this lease made for 99 years, is the first to be called at expiration in the United States. What action the courts will take and how much of the present property will revert to the heirs are questions that may make a famous case in the courts of this country.

Forrest Ellman of this city, has been a clerk in this city for about three years, prior to which he worked in large New York stores and came from Ludlow Falls, Ohio.

He recently received word, from Philadelphia lawyers that he was one of the heirs to an estate in Oil City, which is in litigation. He was later advised by his relatives in New York State that he would be expected to aid in the fight.

According to information from Ohio and printed Jan. 29 in Dayton, W. E. Ellman, of West Milton, Ohio, a clerk in the county auditor's office, discovered a lease in the archives that had expired. Its perusal showed that several well known Miami county families share in an \$80,000,000 estate in Pennsylvania through the provision of the 99 year lease clause.

The publication says "Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pearson of Troy, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Ellman of Ludlow Falls, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Ellman of Pleasant Hill, Ohio are the persons who may share in the estate and with other relatives they have placed the hands of a St. Louis attorney, who is now in Philadelphia looking out for their interests."

"Ninety-nine years ago the ancestors of the Ellmans and Pearsons made several thousand acres of what is now the most valuable land in Pennsylvania with the provision that at the time the lease expired the land with all other improvements would revert back to the heirs of the original owners."

"The land has been developed by the Rockefeller interests and today the estate is estimated at \$80,000,000. Included in the land is the whole city of Oil City, Penna., and nearly one thousand acres in the city of Philadelphia."

The ancestors of the Miami county families who procured the original lease are Marmaduke Coate and wife, Arthur Coate and wife and son, James, William P. Sarnary, Caleb and Alice Mendenhall.

"The last two named persons were closely related to Daniel Boone, one of the pioneers of Ohio and Kentucky. The last year of the lease expired before the holiday a relative noticed an advertisement for the heirs of the land published in a Philadelphia newspaper, and at once steps were taken to locate all the heirs. It is probable that 200 heirs will appear before the case is brought into court. The fight for the recovery of the lands and improvements will be made in Philadelphia and it may be several years before all the litigation can be settled."

## FIRE CHIEF AND BANKER-FIREMAN KILLED BY TRAIN

Babylon, L. I., Feb. 5.—Leon Pepit, chief of the Babylon fire department, and John Higbie, president of the Babylon National Bank, were killed today when the automobile chemical engine in which they were riding was struck by a train at the Deer Park station crossing of the Long Island Railroad. Higbie and Pepit were answering an alarm of a small fire.

Uncle Sam won't take postage stamps for cash.

Exporters, shippers and carriers and all others affected by the new government order effective Feb. 1 relating to the form of declaration exporters must file with all shipments destined to foreign countries are requested when making requisition for the forms to the local custom house to send postage stamps.

The forms cost half a cent each and may be had at the custom house in this city where details regarding their preparation will be gladly furnished upon application. Postage stamps can not be accepted as payment.

ROB TELEPHONE BOOTH

Burglars broke open the cash box in the telephone booth at the railroad station at 12:10 this morning. The amount of money stolen is estimated at about \$4. The money box was smashed by an iron railroad coupling. Few were in the station at the time and as the robbery was committed in an enclosed booth they were unable to hear the noise made by breaking the iron cash box.

## FOUL PLOT TO WRECK BIG SPAN

Canadian Troops Frustrate Attempt to Dynamite Victoria Bridge Across St. Lawrence River—Plotter Is Fired Upon By Guards But Makes His Escape—Investigation Discloses Evidence of Conspiracy.

Montreal, Feb. 5.—What is believed to have been an attempt to blow up Victoria bridge was frustrated last night by militia guards, it was learned today.

About midnight the guards noticed a man making his way toward the bridge on the ice.

He was picked out by the searchlights and when challenged, retreated without answering.

About 4 o'clock a man was again detected trying to reach the bridge from the ice.

When he refused to answer a challenge he was fired at but succeeded in making his escape.

An investigation started by the military authorities has convinced them that an attempt to destroy the bridge was intended.

The Victoria bridge crosses the St. Lawrence and is used by the Grand Trunk and Delaware & Hudson railroads. It is a mile and a half in length and has been guarded by soldiers since the outbreak of the war.

## BRITISH LINER, UNDER NEUTRAL FLAG, IN FIGHT

Berlin Says Vessel Under Dutch Colors Tried To Ram Submarine.

Berlin, Feb. 5.—"Further details of the attack by a British auxiliary cruiser, flying the Dutch flag, on a German submarine are given from an authoritative source," says the Overseas News agency. "The submarine signalled the steamer to send boats in order that the steamer's papers might be examined. This was done after an interval. It is stated that the steamer was a freighter of 3,000 tons, with nothing suspicious about her appearance. She flew the Dutch flag and bore the name Melanie."

"While waiting for the boats the submarine submerged. It approached within about 1,000 metres of the steamship, which opened fire with two cannon of medium type and with machine guns. The submarine escaped only by submerging."

"The steamer then attempted twice to ram the submarine, flying the Dutch flag all the time."

"There is no Dutch steamer Melanie but there is a British boat of this name of 3,002 tons."

"In connection with those facts is recalled a report of the Havas Agency on Jan. 28 to the effect that the French mail boat Plata, without being attacked, opened fire on a submarine and sank it. Rear Admiral Lacaze, French minister of marine, was quoted by the Paris press as saying that all French trading ships had been ordered to ram or sink at submarines, whether or not attacked by them."

"Zbysko" Lewandowski Arrested At Plant of Cornwall & Patterson

John Lewandowski, accused of the murder of George Maszanka, of Terryville, was arrested yesterday morning at the Cornwall & Patterson Co. factory in the West End.

State Policeman Hurley traced Lewandowski to the local plant and yesterday he found him employed there as a helper. He made no resistance to the arrest. According to the plant officials, he had been working only two days, and they have no record of where he lived.

Lewandowski was known as "Zbysko" in Terryville.

Dr. Martin Must Pay Ida Collett \$3 Week 10 Years

Dr. Robert D. Martin, the Broad street veterinarian, must pay \$3 and costs as well as \$3 a week for ten years to Ida Collet of Fairfield, who alleged the doctor was the father of her child. Judge Scott heard arguments in chambers. He ordered that Dr. Martin furnish bonds of \$800 to secure the weekly payments.

MRS. CARSON IMPROVED

A slight improvement was noted in the condition of Mrs. Annie E. Carson of 388 Willard street, according to reports from Bridgeport hospital today. She attempted to end her life by cutting her throat with her husband's razor. Physicians say that she may recover but that a relapse is likely to follow, which will eventually cause her death.

THE WEATHER

Snow flurries and somewhat warmer tonight. Sunday, partly cloudy, colder by Sunday night. Fresh to south winds.